

of Group **II** would not necessarily be applicable to the method of purifying DNA of Group **I**. Applicant traverses for at least the following reason.

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." MPEP §803. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not demonstrated that searching the subject matter of Group **I** would impose a serious burden over searching the subject matter of Group **II**. Searching the art pertaining to the identification of the DNA product recited in claims 21-34 would lead the Examiner to references that disclose the process for purifying the plasmid DNA, as recited in claims 1-20. Accordingly, it would not be an undue burden for the Examiner to search Groups **I** and **II** together. Thus, in view of MPEP §803, Applicants respectfully request that all claims be searched and examined in the subject application. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Laura A. Vogel
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 55,702

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
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